

was drawn to Roger's court about
1140,

There
he became a close friend of the King
and his guide
in the humane sciences, *

Roger's last fourteen years were
spent largely in
the scientific speculations which he
loved.

Geo-
graphy and mathematics were Ins
jwssion, and his
patronage left to science finally "the
greatest
geographical monument of the Middle
Ages,^{1*}

Knowing well the works of Orosius,
Ptolemy, and
some of the Arabs, he desired to haw
complete

knowledge not only concerning his own
kingdom,

but also about the whole Seven Climes
or *Climato*

into which current learned belief
divided the

inhabited world. Edrisi arrived in
time to aid

the King> and the savant did the work of
the prince,

A commission wan appointed with thcs
Arab aa

secretary, to improve on the previous
work of

"authors and professors "who were* no
wiser than

the books," to revise the map of the
world, and

to obtain general information as to the
world's

raccs, countries, towns, stm» inlands,
n»ds> and

distances from place to phut*. The
commtanion

sought information at first hand from
numt varied

classes of people, Anih tnt'rvhnnts
gave nil that

they knew of Africa, Arabia, India.
8f®in» and the

Moslem world; Greeks at court
drseritxtd the East
and the Empire; returning Crufiatlm
and dtstin-

¹ For BtlrS»S'ji wwks w ***Atti falfa Hmt****
<Atftstl&mm
ad iſr,t vol. viii, (iH7(» 77), The wh»4c text «if
hia
Roger iit in JmuUtjrt, ***RtetHti dm myttg*.**** IFarw,
i«j^x}» Wto. v, and
vi,